

7 in a direction of vehicle travel, as a result of a torque acting in the pivoting  
8 direction, into a safety position;

9 a device for generating the torque;

10 means for detecting a rear-end impact; and

11 immobilization means for retention of the upper back part in the normal  
12 use position;

13 wherein the device for generating the torque comprises a force storage

14 device or <sup>an</sup> energy storage device acting irrespective of any occupancy of the

15 vehicle seat, the means for detecting a rear-end impact comprising a vehicle

16 crash sensor and the immobilization means comprising a lever system, the

17 vehicle crash sensor being in effective connection with the force storage device

18 or <sup>an</sup> energy storage device, and with the lever system constituting the

19 immobilization means for retention of the upper back part, such that in the event

20 of the rear-end impact, the retention of the upper back part in the normal use

21 position is nullified, the force storage device or <sup>the</sup> energy storage device is

22 activated, and the pivoting motion is thereby initiated.

1 26. (New) The seatback of Claim 25, wherein there is attached in or  
2 on the upper back part a headrest which in the event of a rear-end impact is  
3 moved out of a comfort position, in which its spacing from a seat user's head is  
4 approximately 40 to 110 mm, into an interception position, in which its spacing  
5 from a seat user's head is zero or almost zero.

1 27. (New) The seatback of Claim 25, wherein the torque-generating  
2 device is constituted by a preloaded spring element or multiple preloaded spring  
3 elements.

1 28. (New) The seatback of Claim 27, wherein the spring element is  
2 constituted by a torsion spring arranged in the pivot axis.

1 29. (New) The seatback of Claim 27, wherein the means for detecting  
2 a rear-end impact are in effective connection with the immobilization means for  
3 retention of the upper back part in the normal use position, and immobilization

4 means are in effective connection with the torque-generating device, in such a  
5 way that in the event of the impact, the preloaded spring element is released by  
6 the immobilization means.

1 30. (New) The seatback of Claim 25, further comprising a second  
2 immobilization means for retention of the upper back part against a backward  
3 motion out of the safety position into the normal use position.

1 31. (New) The seatback of Claim 25, wherein the lever system of the  
2 immobilization means for retention of the upper back part in the normal use  
3 position is constituted by at least two coacting levers.

1 32. (New) The seatback of Claim 25, wherein the lever system of the  
2 immobilization means for retention of the upper back part in the normal use  
3 position comprises an interlock lever joined immovably to the upper back part,  
4 and to the torque-generating device, the interlock lever pivotable about the pivot  
5 axis of the upper back part, and secured in a locked position by a locking bolt.

1 33. (New) The seatback of Claim 32, wherein in the locked position,  
2 the locking bolt engages through an elongated opening of the interlock lever, out  
3 of which it is moved in order to release the torque-generating device.

1 34. (New) The seatback of Claim 32, wherein the interlock lever is  
2 joined to the torsion spring via a recoil lock that blocks any pivoting of the upper  
3 back part in the direction out of its normal use position into its safety position,  
4 but permits it in the opposite direction.

1 35. (New) The seatback of Claim 34, wherein the recoil lock is  
2 embodied as a self-locking rolling-element or wedge-type lock, operating  
3 positively or nonpositively, preferably by jamming, or as a ratchet device, in such  
4 a way that it makes possible immobilization even in positions located between  
5 the safety position and the normal use position of the upper back part.

1 36. (New) The seatback of Claim 25, wherein the lever system is  
2 constituted by a pawl, mounted pivotably in the upper back part, wherein the

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3 pawl in a locked position braces against a counterbearing that is stationary  
4 relative to the upper back part; and by a pivotably mounted immobilization lever  
5 that in a locked position engages into the pawl, and in a release position releases  
6 the pawl.

1 37. (New) The seatback of Claim 36, wherein the lever system is  
2 mounted in side walls of a pocket-like holding part arranged in the upper back  
3 part.

1 38. (New) The seatback of Claim 37, wherein the counterbearing is  
2 arranged at an upper end of a support part that is immovably joined at the other  
3 end to the lower back part and projects into the pocket-like holding part, and is  
4 constituted by a stop surface for a lobe of the pawl arranged approximately at an  
5 unattached lever end.

1 39. (New) The seatback of Claim 36, wherein a motion of the  
2 immobilization lever out of its locked position into its release position is brought  
3 about by means of an electromagnet which receives its switching pulse from a  
4 sensor constituting the means for detection of the rear-end impact.

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1 40. (New) The seatback of Claim 30, wherein the second  
2 immobilization means is respectively embodied as a self-locking rolling-element or  
3 wedge-type lock that operates positively and/or nonpositively, or as a ratchet  
4 device, the second immobilization means making possible immobilization against  
5 a backward motion even in positions located between the safety position and the  
6 normal use position of the upper back part.

1 41. (New) The seatback of Claim 30, wherein the second  
2 immobilization means is configured as a snap-locking ratchet mechanism having  
3 at least one ratchet tooth set attached within the pocket-shaped holding part,  
4 and having at least one tooth functioning as a counterpart ratchet element,  
5 arranged on the support part.

1 42. (New) The seatback of Claim 30, wherein the second  
2 immobilization means is configured as a rolling-element locking device comprising

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3 a ring gear, arranged concentrically about the pivot axis of the upper back part,,  
4 that is arranged inside a cylindrical shell, as well as rolling elements arranged  
5 between the teeth of the ring gear and between the ring gear and the shell.

1 43. (New) The seatback of Claim 30, wherein the second  
2 immobilization means is configured as a recoil lock that comprises a cylindrical  
3 inner part, arranged concentrically about the pivot axis of the upper back part,  
4 that is arranged within a shell part, as well as rolling elements or jamming  
5 wedges arranged in receptacles of the shell part.

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1 44. (New) The seatback of Claim 30, wherein the second  
2 immobilization means is configured as a recoil lock that comprises a cylindrical  
3 inner part having a smooth enveloping surface or one structured to increase  
4 friction or equipped with a coating, and an eccentrically mounted pivoting body  
5 engaging nonpositively on the enveloping surface of the inner part.

1 45. (New) The seatback of Claim 30, wherein the second  
2 immobilization means is configured in such a way that the second immobilization  
3 means limits any recoil play of the upper back part to a maximum angular  
4 magnitude of one degree.

1 46. (New) The seatback of Claim 25, wherein the means for detecting  
2 a rear-end impact <sup>13</sup>are in effective connection with the immobilization means for  
3 retention of the upper back part in the normal use position, and the  
4 immobilization means <sup>13</sup>are in effective connection with the torque-generating  
5 device, in such a way that in the event of the impact, a release of the torque-  
6 generating device is accomplished by the immobilization means by means of a  
7 pyrotechnic device.